(a) whether Government has allowed UNICEF to distribute packaged imported food for severely malnourished children in several States;

(b) if so, whether UNICEF is not abiding by the guidelines of the Indian Government in distributing packaged food to malnourished children in the States; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government to ensure compliance of various guidelines of Government by UNICEF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Organisation (UNICEF) and the States have been advised appropriately and accordingly.

Use of children in TV programmes

†425.DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of children by TV channels in their various programmes does not amount to their exploitation;

(b) whether children do not miss the joy of natura! childhood as they are distracted by urge of earning money and dreams of glamorous world from childhood and neglect their education, sporting activities and health; and

(c) whether Government plans to take stringent measures to stop the said exploitation of children; if so, the outlines thereof; if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) and b) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has viewed the use of children by TV Channels in those programmes which adversely affect their education, recreation, leisure, health and emotional well being as amounting to their exploitation.

It is also the view that children miss the joy of natural childhood as they are distracted by the urge of earning money and neglect their education, health and sporting activities.

(c) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has constituted a Working Group to formulate guidelines in the matter.

Women and child trafficking

426 SHR1 PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been cited by US as a major transit point for human trafficking, particularly the women and children and forcing them in the sex trade and force labour;

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.